



The Comptroller General
of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20548

Decision

Matter of: Williams Services, Inc.
File: B-225041
Date: October 29, 1986

DIGEST

Bid containing 30-day acceptance period is nonresponsive to invitation for bids requiring a minimum acceptance period of 60 days, and therefore is not correctable through mistake-in-bid procedures.

DECISION

Williams Services, Inc. (Williams), protests the rejection of its bid as nonresponsive under invitation for bids (IFB) No. F38601-86-B-1021 issued by the Department of the Air Force, Shaw Air Force Base, for refuse collection.

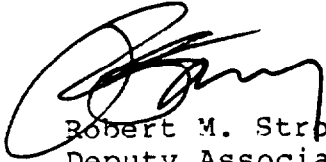
We dismiss the protest without obtaining a report from the Air Force, since it is clear from the material furnished on behalf of Williams that the protest is without legal merit. 4 C.F.R. § 21.3(f) (1986).

The Air Force rejected Williams' low bid because it offered a 30-day acceptance period instead of the required minimum acceptance period of 60 days. Williams contends that it inadvertently entered a 30-day acceptance period on its bid and that correction of its error is proper under mistake-in-bid procedures.

We have held that where a solicitation requires a minimum acceptance period, the requirement for adherence to the specified period is material and a bid offering less than the stated acceptance period is nonresponsive. Miles Metal Corp., 54 Comp. Gen. 750 (1975), 75-1 C.P.D. ¶ 145. Moreover, mistake-in-bid procedures are not available to cure a nonresponsive bid. Empire Generator Corp., B-205194, Mar. 1, 1982, 82-1 C.P.D. ¶ 176. A nonresponsive bid is not correctable after bid opening, because such a practice would give the nonresponsive bidder the competitive advantage of electing to accept or reject the contract by choosing to make its bid responsive or not. Valley Forge Flag Co., Inc.,

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B-216108, Sept. 4, 1984, 84-2 C.P.D. # 251. The Air Force thus properly rejected Williams' bid.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Strong", is written over the printed name.

Robert M. Strong
Deputy Associate General Counsel